A Study of Philosophy of Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam For Education Empowerment in India

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''बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ''

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INTRODUCTION

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul kalam as an educator

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born on 15th Oct. 1931 to a Tamil Muslim family in the Rameshwaram. He was a great scientist and a former president of India from 2002 to 2007.His life and teaching emphasis on sincerity, dedication, hard work and in genuine challenges pursuit of success and advancement in life. He accomplished numerous social activities in his life for India. He was also known as "Missile Man of India" and his birth anniversary is observed as “World's student's Day".

According to Abdul Kalam - The purpose of education is to make good human beings with skill and expertise. He was a source of inspirations for thousands of people across the world because of his philosophy and teachings. His ideas and considerations on education and empowering country are outstanding. He said “all of us do not have equal talent. But, all of us have equal opportunity to develop our talent.” The remarkable contribution of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam education philosophy in empowering India is researched and discussed in here.

According to Dr. Kalam education system should retain the smiles of children. This can happen if education system is made creative and provide full employment to all.

Dr. Kalam lists the main aims of education are as follows :-

1. To build character and to cultivate human values in students.
2. To inject creativity and develop scientific attitude.
3. To enhance learning capacity through technology.
4. To build confidence among children
5. To develop capacity for research and enquiry. among students.
6. To develop moral leadership.
7. To make the country energy independent.
8. To develop the sense of dignity, self-respect and self-reliance among students.

Education

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." ***Nelson Mandela.***

"Education makes a man eagerly pursue the ideal perfection of citizenship and teaches him how rightly to rule and how to obey." ***Pluto***

Gandhi defined education: "By education I mean an all round drawing out of the best in child and man, body, mind and spirit.

Literacy is not the end of education not even the beginning. It is one of the means whereby man and woman can be educated. Literacy in itself is no education."

To say Education is important is understatement. It is a weapon to improve one's life. Education certain by determines the quality of an individual's life. Education improves one's knowledge, skills and develops personality and attitude. It affect the chances of employment for people. This is due to the skills of a high paying job that Education provides. Education is the most significant tool in eliminating poverty and unemployment. It enhances the commercial scenario and benefits the country over all.

Education in India

In the olden days, Education, to the Indian mind was the enquiry into spiritual nature of reality, with little emphasis laid on the material or physical progress. Education then, was the study of the scriptures. The highest knowledge was the understanding the true nature of the self that would lead to total freedom, or Moksha. Very little emphasis was given to understanding the empirical self or the inner, psychological world, with all its intricacies.

With time, the focus and the understanding of education underwent a change. Thinkers viewed education with its different

time related aims and functions. Thus, there was a shift in the vision of education.

The critical need everywhere in the world is for education to prepare youth to lead successful fulfilling lives. The future of any country depends on its youth. Creating a good education and learning system and providing better opportunities to the youth will make them secure a good future for themselves and the country. Education is a very important factor in the economic development of any country. India since the early days of independence has always focused on improving the literacy rate in country. Education is the right of every Indian citizen regardless of gender or Social of status. it promotes a democracy that comprises a civilized and well-mannered society. It also aids in the upliftment of economically under privileged groups and results in the creation of numerous job and employment opportunities. Education in India means the process of teaching, learning and training of human capitals in schools and colleges.

Today we are all influenced by the achievements of modern science and technology in order to compete with the world and to achieve with the world and to achieve a sustained economic growth and standing at International level. So the prevailing statues of education has number of sub divisions that we have hundreds of

specialists in different fields. Because of this characteristic everyone has the profession of their own choices.

The modern concept of education means to develop the innate capacities of a child in the social environment. Education if understood in philosophical perspective generates knowledge which is modern tool of growth and development. The Indian government rightly considers education the “Key catalyst for promoting socio economic mobility in building equitable and just society."

According to Education Commission of India.

“We believe that India should strive to bring science and the values of the spirit together in harmony and there by pave their way for the eventual emergence of a society which would cater to the needs of the man as a whole and not only to a particular fragment of his personality.”

The role of education in Indian Society:

1. Modernization of Indian Society.
2. Synthesizing cultural and scientific values.
3. Promoting international understanding.
4. Developing economy's growth.
5. Developing secular outlook.

6. Developing democratic values.
7. Promoting social and natural integrative
8. Establishing socialistic pattern of society.

An Education model for the 21st Century :-

A good educational model is the need of the hour to ensure that students grow to contribute towards the economic growth of the nation.

The education model should be based on capacity building comprising five components:

1. Research and enquiry.
2. creativity and innovation.
3. Capacity to use high end technology.
4. Entrepreneurship.
5. Moral leadership.

Philosophy

The word “philosophy” involves two Greek words – ‘Philo’ meaning ‘love’ and ‘Sophia’ meaning ‘knowledge’. Thus literally speaking, philosophy means love for wisdom. This definition of philosophy is different from the sense in which the word Darsan has been taken in

India. The literal meaning of philosophy shows that the philosopher is constantly and every where engaged in the search for truth.

According to Oxford Collins Cobuild Dictionary (2006)-

- Philosophy is the study of the creation of theories about basic things such as the nature of existence, knowledge, thought or about how people should live.

- Philosophy is a particular theory that someone has about how to live or how to deal with a particular situation.

In brief, philosophy is a philosophical process of solving some characteristic problems through characteristic methods, from a characteristic attitude and arriving at characteristic conclusions and results.

Educational Philosophy

There are philosophies like idealism, realism, existentialism and so on and they certainly have educational implications however to me the important consideration in education is not the mechanism of knowing but are present approach towards life and living.

Indian philosophy of education is a cordial synthesis of idealism and pragmatism. While laying emphasis upon the cosmic, the universal and the total truth and reality, Indian thinkers have recognized the

value of plurality, multiplicity and individuality as equally important expressions of the ultimate reality. Therefore, a philosophy of education integral in aims, curriculum, psychology, practice, teaching methods and means of education will alone suit Indian society.

Indian philosophers of education, including Sri Aurobindo, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, M.K. Gandhi and Swami Dayananda will be most useful for formulating schemes of national education. Indian philosophers have laid emphasis upon spiritual values in human life.

SUBJECT MATTER OF PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION;

The phrase "Philosophy of Education" is an ambiguous expression which designates two related types of inquiry. We may ask questions like: a) What role does education play in the organization of society and the transmission of culture? How are individual needs and interests affected by community traditions and institutions? Or

(b) We may ask questions like: What are the means and ends of education? What kind of society can best further these end?

And having answered them tentatively we go on to inquire; what knowledge, skills and techniques, shall we impart, what habits and

values and powers shall we encourage, in order to achieve these desirable interrelated personal and social ends.

Types of educational philosophy -:

Perennialism→ The philosophy of education is the branch of applied philosophy that investigates the nature of education as well as its aims and problems. The educational philosophy suggesting the nature- is constant and schools should teach content and topics that have withstood the test of time.

Essentialism→ The educational philosophy suggesting that specific knowledge and skills exist that all people should posses.

Progressivism→ An educational philosophy emphasizing real world problem and individual development.

Social reconstructionism→ An educational philosophy asserting that schools, teachers, students should take the lead in addressing social problems improving and society.

Education Empowerment

Empowerment is the term that refers and contains within it the word "Power". It is something that can be given to a person that he/she does not have. **The Oxford Dictionary** while dealing with

this term defines it as giving 'Official Authority' or 'Legal Power'. Further, it elaborates that the prefix "em" originates from a Latin root and implies that the object 'power' being placed upon another. It Implies that power is a commodity to be bestowed on a previously "Underpowered group".

According to Kabeer, “Empowerment is the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make strategic choice acquire such ability”. She argues that 'For women to improve their ability to control resources, to determine agendas and make decisions, empowerment strategies must build on the 'power within' as a necessary adjustment'.

Empowering means having the knowledge, confidence, means or ability to do things or make decisions for oneself. It makes people respectful and non- judgmental and helps focusing an strengths abilities.

Components of Empowerment

1. Women's and Men's sense of internal strength and confidence to face life.

2. The right to make choices.

3. The power to control their own lives within and outside the home.
4. The ability to influence the direction of social change towards the

creation of a more just social and economic order nationally and internationally (Mishra, 2007:64).

Dimensions of Empowerment:

UNISEF strategy: The core of the Empowerment Framework is its argument that oppressed section's development can be viewed in terms of five levels of equality, of which empowerment is an essential element at each level. The levels are: welfare, access, concentration, participation and control.

These dimensions of empowerment are interrelated. Ignoring one aspect will limit the empowerment that results. Most education or training project tends to focus on only one or two aspects. Empowerment can also be worked on at different levels, including intellectual (consciousness rising), emotional (personal experiences), and instrumental (action plans) work in all level is needed for empowerment to occur.

Education empowerment builds self-reliance, self-determination, self-rule and autonomy. This is what A.P.J. Abdul Kalam dreamed and advocate for every Indian.

REVIEW Of LITERATURE

A literature review is an overview of the previously published works on a specific topic. The review usually precedes the methodology and results sections of the work. A literature review is **a compilation, classification, and evaluation of what other researchers have written on a particular topic**. A literature review normally forms part of a research thesis but it can also stand alone as a self-contained review of writings on a subject.

According to Creswell (2005), a review of the literature "is a written summary of journal articles, books and other documents that describes the past and current state of information, organizes the literature into topics and documents a need for a proposed study."

John W. Best and James V. Kahn (1992) opine, "A summary of the writings of recognized authorities and of previous research provides evidence that the researcher is familiar with what is already known and what is still unknown and untested".

A literature review is a surveys, scholarly articles, books and other sources relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory, and by doing so, providing a description, summary, and critical

evaluation of these works. Literature reviews are designed to provide an overview of sources you have explored while researching a particular topic and to demonstrate to your readers how your research fits into the larger field of study. A literature review is a description of the literature relevant to a particular field or topic. It gives an overview of what has been said, who the key writers are, what are the prevailing theories and hypotheses, what questions are being asked, and what methods and methodologies are appropriate and useful. As such, it is not in itself primary research, but rather it reports on other findings.

The primary reports used in the literature may be verbal, but in the vast majority of cases reports are written documents.

Importance of literature review in research:

1.Provides the interpretation of existing literature in light of updated developments in the field to help in establishing the consistency in knowledge and relevancy of existing materials.

2.It helps in calculating the impact of the latest information in the field by mapping their progress of knowledge.

3.It brings out the dialects of contradictions between various thoughts within the field to establish facts.

4.The research gaps scrutinized initially are further explored to establish the latest facts of theories to add value to the field.

5.Indicates the current research place in the schema of a particular field.

6.Provides information for relevancy and coherency to check the research.

7.Apart from elucidating the continuance of knowledge, it also points out areas that require further investigation and thus aid as a starting point of any future research.

8.Justifies the research and sets up the research question.

9.Sets up a theoretical framework comprising the concepts and theories of the research upon which its success can be judged.

10.Helps to adopt a more appropriate methodology for the research by examining the strengths and weaknesses of existing research in the same field.

11.Increases the significance of the results by comparing it with the existing literature.

12.Provides a point of reference by writing the findings in the scientific manuscript.

13.Helps to get the due credit from the audience for having done the fact-finding and fact-checking mission in the scientific manuscripts.

14.The more the reference of relevant sources of it could increase more of its trustworthiness with the readers.

15.Helps to prevent plagiarism by tailoring and uniquely tweaking the scientific manuscript not to repeat other's original idea.

16.By preventing plagiarism, it saves the scientific manuscript from rejection and thus also saves a lot of time and money.

17.Helps to evaluate, condense and synthesize gist in the author's own words to sharpen the research focus.

18.Helps to compare and contrast to show the originality and uniqueness of the research than that of the existing other researches.

19.Rationalizes the need for conducting the particular research in a specified field.

20.Helps to collect data accurately for allowing any new methodology of research than the existing ones.

STUDY OF RELATED RESEARCH :

Not much of the work with reference to Abdul kalam's philosophy has been done. Here are some of the related literature searches:

1.**Dr. Neena Dash (2018) –** "Educational philosophy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam with special reference to Modern system of Education"
Objectives:-

(i) To study the life and work of Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam.

(ii) To evaluate the relevance of the educational Philosophy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in the modern education system.
Findings:-

(i) Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born on October 15th, 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, and later specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from (MIT).

(ii) Increasing rate of dropouts is an issue concern for all. If India wants to get the status of a developed country, it must work to reduce the rate of dropouts. Thus, Dr. Kalam rightly emphasized a need of taking necessary steps in this regard in the present education system.

2.**Yamuna, G (2013)** in her research thesis titled- "Impact of Higher Education on women empowerment", The Gandhi gram Rural Institute states:

Objectives:-

(i)To identify the various levels of empowerments among the respondents.

(ii)To evaluate the impact of higher education on women empowerment.

(iii)To offer suggestions for enhancing women empowerment.

Findings:-

(i) Higher educated women have awareness of legislation protecting women's right, reproductive rights, nutrition, health care and family planning.

(ii) Higher educated women can become entrepreneurs and make investments and can generate income through self- employment or business.

3. **Anshu Rupainwar** in her thesis titled **-** "Educational Thoughts and Ideas of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, An analytical study", Integral University presented very effectively-

Objectives:-

(i)Thoughts and ideas of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul kalam with regards to meaning of education, aims and objectives of education, different levels of education, discipline, teaching methodology and the role of teacher and students etc.

Findings:-

(i)This study brings out the magnitude of impact made by Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in the sphere of education, in general and particularly in India.

4. **Devadanam, Yalanti (2020)** in his research thesis entitled as "Philosophy of educational systems- An Indian perspective", Andhra university, studied the educational philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore, Jawaharlal Nehru, Swami Vivekanand, Gandhian school of educational thoughts and S. Radha Krishnan's.
The aim of the study of these thinkers is to capture the wisdom of the

ages and to make it relevant for these times and to help the educators to come up with innovative methodologies to help students to harness their latent potential and channel their energies towards human competencies.

5.**Avinash Kumar Singh (2017)** published "Education and Empowerment in India". This book explores the critical linkages between education and empowerment of women, marginalized groups and other disadvantaged sections of society. It-

(a) Provides an overview of educational policies from India's independence to the present day.

(b) Examine a range of issues connected with education such as RTI Act, empowerment and community mobilization, higher education, etc.

(c) Being together both theoretical postulates and empirical findings.

6. **Kenneth E. Piggy (Dec.2009)** published an article in Journal of the Community Development Society, Vol.33– "Three faces of Empowerment: Expanding the Theory of Empowerment in Community Development".

Objectives:-

(i)This article states that Empowerment as a process in leadership education is seen as fundamental to community development. Practitioners may argue that individuals basically empower

themselves through personal knowledge, attitudes and behavior (self- empowerment).

(ii)The extensive literature on empowerment also makes clear that empowerment is an outcome of interpersonal (mutual empowerment) and collective social action (social empowerment).

Findings:- The results of the literature review indicate that these interventions fall short of fully utilizing what we know about empowerment and its role in community development.

7.**Jamini Neetu, (2018)** in her thesis "Rashtra nirman mein Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam ke shiksha darshan ka vishleshnatmak adhyan"; IASE University.

Objectives:-

(i)To study the ideology and philosophy of Dr. Abdul Kalam in accordance to build strong and modern nation by developing practical education structure.

(ii)To evaluate the education system at different level in India.

Findings:-

(i)The most important thing needed by mentally depressed and pressured students in today's scenario is self-confidence which can be generated by improving the declining status of education.

(ii)This study concludes that the education of Abdul kalam should be engaged more in philosophical researches.

8.**Chaudhary Saroja Kanta(2000)** in research thesis "Educational philosophy of Dr. S.Radhakrishnan and its implications in the modern Indian education"; Uttkal University.

Objectives:-

(i)To comprehend the philosophy of Radhakrishnan in general and his educational philosophy in particular.

(ii)To analyse his educational thoughts in the context of socio religious and political scenario of the nation.

Findings:-

(i)Character building is to be stressed in the schools. Emphasis should be laid on higher values of life, not merely on the employment opportunity.

(ii)Development of vocational efficiency of the students should be given importance. National Integration is an urgent need for a pluralistic country like India.

9.**Chauhan, Kirit kumar, R. (2017)**, "A study of thinking on education of A.P.J. Abdul kalam", Sardar Patel University.

Objective:-

(i)To study the thinking on education and value education of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

(ii)To study the conceptual understanding of religion and spirituality of A.P.J. Abdul kalam.

Findings:-

(i)The study of thinking on education of A.P.J. Abdul kalam will be fruitful for today's generation , society and nation.

(ii)This will provide new approach to each person concerned to education, each component of education, method, school, curriculum, principle and value description.

10.**Chaube, S.P. (1962),** "Recent philosophies of education in India",Ph.D, University of Lucknow.

Objective:- The present study has been conceived because of the envisaged need of exploring the educational philosophies of some of India's recent thinkers, who have influenced not only India's educational thoughts and practices but also the life of Indian people in various respect

11.**Cyril, Madhaval Thacore(1948)**, "Some aspects of the educational thoughts", University of Lucknow. The aim of this study

has been to try to discover the manner in which the mind of India has in our times attempted to find out and give expression to the truth and to try to state the philosophies underlying the experiments at education related to the genius and the needs of the country.

12.**Sindhu, Hardeep (Nov.3, 2013)**; "Kalam for education that promotes entrepreneurship". In this article, former president A.P.J. Abdul kalam said, there was a need for creating an educational system that highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship while addressing students on the 54th foundation day of IIT- Bombay. Kalam said the country's education system should prepare students to get oriented toward setting up enterprises which can give them creativity, freedom and ability to generate wealth.

13.**Paul (2013),** studied the educational ideas of four Indian modern educational thinkers and bought out the views of Tagore, Vivekanand and Gandhi regarding the role of education in developing the personality of an individual. As per Tagore education should be such that a person can develop his whole personality. As per Gandhi, education should have 3H's which means Head, Heart and Hand. He believes in character building and preparation for whole life. As per Vivekanand, education should be man making, self- control, self -realisation and bring out best in child.

PROBLEM STATEMENT→

This is the first step of any study to concisely detail a vision and context for the study to be conducted. The statement of the problem clarifies the potential problem to be researched. A problem statement is a broad, clear, and specific overview that will be addressed by the researcher during the research. Statement of the problem helps the researcher to specify the problem precisely and address the specific questions raised in the study. It also helps in determining the limits of the investigation. To formulate the statement of the problem, previous studies are reviewed, and certain assumptions are made on which the whole research is based till the end. The research problem selected by the researcher in the present study is defined in the following way-

"A Study Of Philosophy Of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam For Educational Empowerment In India. "

This research problem is helpful in the following ways:

1.The other educationists expects to explore the educational philosophy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul kalam in the present education system.

2.The other philosophers and socialist expects to divulge the issues of social reconstruction and empowerment in accordance with educational philosophy.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

1. To study the educational philosophy of A.P. J. Abdul Kalam.
2. To discuss Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's contribution in shaping the concepts of curriculum, moral education, women education in India.
3. To study the role of Abdul Kalam in spreading empowerment in India.
4. To study how education empowerment develop a sense of self - worth, a belief in one's ability to desired changes and the right to control one's own life.
5. To learn about the activities of Abdul kalam for higher education to youth.

Methodology

The research work taken up for study entitled, “The study of Philosophy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul kalam for educational empowerment in India”, would basically form a descriptive and theoretical study. The main thrust is to study and thus understand the educational views of Dr Abdul kalam for empowering the whole nation. Being a descriptive and historical in nature, this research would thus entail descriptive and interpretative study.

Data Collection

Historical and descriptive method of research is also called the documentary research as it makes use of historical documents and other records. Thus in order to make the historical method of study more scientific, the researcher had to collect data from different sources both primary and secondary. The primary task was to collect the relevant data from different sources such as libraries and archives regarding the educational philosophy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Views of eminent educationists were taken to assess their educational philosophy and their implications in modern education. The primary sources of historical evidence used by the researcher were the writings of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul kalam his biographies, speeches, memoir etc. The secondary sources included others writings on his philosophy in general and educational philosophy in particular including text books, edited reports and published books. More over the ideas of many of the great writers, thinkers and philosophers would be discussed, reviewed and critically analysed.

Besides, Internet and library resources, e-journals, interviews of the scholars related to topic would be consistently consulted.

Hypothesis: Since there is no statistical significance exists in a present study, the hypothesis is null.

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